

Dear sirs,

As a researcher in the issue about the biochemical basis of hunger and satiety, particularly on the carbohydrate/protein specific appetite, I ran a number of experiments using animals as experimental subjects, both at the National University of Mexico and the University of Sussex, England. For that reason, I can assure you that experimentation using animals is not always as necessary, or as unbiased as it appears. I myself saw (PhD)students so stressed by their thesis and their results that performed experiments (using an average of 30 rats each) that were not necessary at all. Moreover, I saw people getting rid of rats in an unmerciful way, or putting them alive into the freezer because they had no time to go to the animal house to properly sacrifice them. I now that neither all scientists, nor all experiments are performed in a cruel manner, but reducing the number of experiments in which animals are needed is a good way to really show respect for life. Life in every single being should be respected to be able to respect the life of human beings.

For this reason I respectfully encourage you to support the "Report of the International Workshop on In Vitro Methods for Assessing Acute Systemic Toxicity").

Thank you for your attention,
Virginia Velasco